REMARKS

Status

This Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated December 9, 2005, in which Claims 5-11 were rejected. Claims 5-11 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim 5 is amended to correct an internal inconsistency and conform claim 5 to claim 11. The limitation "fixed" is inserted into the switching mechanism because the fixed voltages are later identified in the voltage dividers as being the voltages to which the dividers respond. Claim 11 already had a similar limitation.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 103

Claims 5-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,118,439 (Ho) in view of US Patent No. 6,268,840 (Huang). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to provide a valid rejection under 35 USC 103, the office action must, at a minimum, find each an every element of the claims in one or more reference. The rejection has failed to make such a finding and one or more findings made in the office action are clearly erroneous.

One error is the finding that the Huang provides voltage dividers for columns and rows. That finding is not supported Huang and is not supported at the locations identified in Huang by the rejection.

The invention relies upon passive components, in particular, voltage dividers, to provide two column voltages and two row voltages from two fixed or reference voltages. In sharp contrast, Huang relies upon active elements, including ramp generators, to provide voltages for operating Huang's rows and columns. See Huang, column 12, lines 20-67 and Fig. 8. The ramp generator 300 has a number of operational amplifiers (OP1, OP2) that generate signals that increase from zero to the desired output level where they are clipped and then applied to the row or column. In this way, Huang uses amplifiers and not voltage dividers to drive his display.

A second error is the finding that the two voltage dividers in Ho are the same as the two voltage dividers of the claims. They are not. The claims define separate row and column voltage dividers. In contrast, Ho has high current

and low current dividers and both dividers are used for the rows and columns. See Fig. 6 of Ho and the supporting disclosure at column 6, lines 3- column 7, lines 33. Ho uses high and low current dividers but whether the current is high or low, the voltage outputs are always the same: V1out, V2out, V3out and V4out. Ho applies the outputs of the voltage divider to the voltage supply circuit and does not distinguish between rows and columns. For example, consider elements A and F. One is vertical, the other horizontal. However, both are connected to a common voltage supply line. Thus, Ho does not allocate one voltage divider to a rows and another to columns.

A third error is the finding that Ho has a switching mechanism that controls the outputs of the dividers. The rejection relies upon elements 160 and 170 as such a switching mechanism. That is erroneous.

Claim 5 has a switch mechanism that outputs first or second fixed voltages. The voltage dividers for the columns and rows **respond** to the fixed voltages and output one of two selectable voltages for the rows and columns. Thus, the voltage divider output is effectively controlled by the switch mechanism.

The blocks 160 and 170 of Ho do not output first or second fixed voltages and no voltage divider in Ho responds to the output of blocks 160 or 170. In Ho, the outputs of the voltage supply 200 are one of four voltages and those outputs do not change in response to the operation of blocks 160 and 170. Stated another way, the outputs of the voltage supply 200 (which includes the voltage dividers) is independent of the operation of the blocks 160 and 170. While block 160 and 170 may control which of the outputs from the voltage supply 200 are applied to the segments, neither block 160 or 170 is responsible for the level of the outputs of the voltage supply circuit 200. Its output levels are unchanged by the operation of blocks 160 and 170.

The above remarks demonstrate that the elements relied upon in the references are not the same elements as found in the claims. The rejection found Huang has voltage dividers; Huang does not but relies upon more complex active components such as amplifiers. The rejection found row and column voltage dividers in Ho, but Ho's voltage dividers have identical voltage outputs and do not distinguish between rows and columns. All the Ho dividers are available to both the alleged rows and columns. The rejection found that Ho had

a switching mechanism that controlled the output of the voltage dividers but the voltage divider outputs of Ho are independent and not responsive to blocks 160, 170..

Thus the invention of claim 5 is patentable over the art of record and its dependent claims are likewise patentable. Claim 11 has many of the same limitations as claim 5 and it is patentable over the art of record.

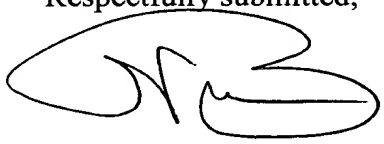
Summary

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 29,134

Nelson A. Blish/djw
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-477-4653
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.